

Long Meadow Lake Trail Experience and Bluff Trail Experience Changed by Construction Projects During 2015

Users of the Long Meadow Lake Trail will experience occasional construction vehicle traffic along the trail starting May 1. This traffic will be on the trail between the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington Education and Visitor Center, and the Highway 77 Bridge. Contractors for the City of Bloomington will be using the trail to facilitate work on the historic Old Cedar Avenue Bridge. Please be alert to the potential for vehicle traffic. Though they will be moving slowly, be prepared to move safely to the side of the trail to allow vehicles to pass.

A separate project to repair the State Highway 77 Bridge by the Minnesota Department of Transportation this summer will result in a temporary closure of the Long Meadow Lake Trail as needed to facilitate repairs. The State Highway 77 pedestrian bridge will be closed throughout the project for two weeks in May and two weeks in June. View the MNDOT website for more information. <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy77mnriver/>

The Bluff Trail will be impacted by project work by CenterPoint Energy from April until September. CenterPoint's Lyndale high pressure natural gas pipeline replacement is being conducted this spring and summer on a narrow corridor of Refuge land under conditions of a special use permit monitored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The work will impact visitors using the Bluff Trail between the Lyndale and Old Cedar Avenue Trailheads.

Tree clearing has already begun in the narrow corridor where the pipeline is being replaced. CenterPoint Energy has contracted with Asplundh for the tree removal work. Some of the trees being removed are being recycled at Wood from the Hood (<http://woodfromthehood.com>) and some smaller limbs are being given to neighbors for residential heat.

In addition, some of the wood is being chipped and used for temporary erosion control on the slopes of the river valley to protect water quality of Refuge wetlands and reduce damage to the bluff lands. As part of the mitigation plan, CenterPoint will plant native tree species on the bluff lands and use a pollinator friendly seed mix for the herbaceous community restoration.

This is part of a much larger pipeline replacement project for CenterPoint Energy. For more information on CenterPoint Energy projects, please visit <http://www.centerpointenergy.com/community/inthecommunity/constructionzone/3b02f17b4a95b410VgnVCM10000026a10d0aRCRD/MN/>

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Long Meadow Lake Unit Trail Map



2015 trail work in red

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1600
952/854 5900

Minnesota Valley’s website address:
<http://midwest.fws.gov/minnesotavalley>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD (9453)
<http://www.fws.gov>

Deaf/hard of hearing individuals may reach Minnesota Valley NWR through the Federal Information Relay System at 1 800/877 8339

Available in alternative formats upon request.



Trails on this unit will be impacted by construction projects during 2015.
-The Long Meadow Lake Trail will be impacted by construction vehicles moving along the trail this summer. Be prepared to step aside to allow them to pass.
-The pedestrian bridge at Highway 77 crossing the Minnesota River will be closed for two weeks in May and two weeks in June for bridge repair.
-The Bluff Trail will be impacted by construction activities due to CenterPoint Energy replacing a natural gas pipeline. The trail may be closed periodically May-September.

The Long Meadow Lake Unit features large areas of marshes and lakes, as well as bluff and river bottom forest. Over 9 miles of trails and the main refuge Visitor Center are located in the Unit.

There are six parking areas to access the Long Meadow Lake Unit:

1. *Visitor Center area:* East of the Mall of America, it is located on the east end of American Boulevard (**3815 American Blvd. East, 55425**).
2. *Bass Ponds:* **2501 86th St. East, 55425**. Just south of the Mall of America; follow 24th Street/Old Shakopee Rd. south past the Mall, turn east on 86th Street, and turn left at the Bass Ponds sign.
3. *Old Cedar Ave.:* **9500 Old Cedar Ave. South, 55425**. From Hwy. 77/ Cedar Ave., exit on Old Shakopee Rd. and head west to the first stoplight. Turn left (south) on Old Cedar Ave. and drive to the parking area at the bottom of the hill.
4. *Parker Picnic Area:* **10401 Columbus Road, 55420**. In south-central Bloomington, head south on Portland Ave., then right on 104th St., then left on 5th Ave. S., then left on Columbus St. to parking area.
5. *Russell A. Sorensen Landing:* **11135 Lyndale Ave. South, 55420**. In Bloomington, take Lyndale Ave. south until it ends at the parking area.
6. *Jens Casperson Landing:* In Burnsville, take Hwy. 77 south to Hwy. 13, then north/east to Silver Bell, then north to Nichols, then turn right and drive to the parking area under the Hwy. 77 bridge.

About the Unit

Getting There



Our parking lots have **addresses**, to assist you in locating them.

Long Meadow Lake Trails

(see map for permitted uses on these trails)

Hillside Trail (0.4 mi., loop) - From the Visitor Center, this trail drops steeply to a observation platform overlooking Peterson Pond. A free, self-guided Songbird Trail Pack can be checked out at the Visitor Center. A spur trail leads to the Long Meadow Lake Trail.

Long Meadow Lake Trail (3.5 mi., linear) - Begins at the gate on American Blvd., or from the Hillside Trail. The trail enters hillside forest and crosses a water control structure (0.6 mi.), then continues past marsh, a Minnesota River viewpoint (1.1 mi.), bottomland forest, along a river oxbow (1.9 mi.), and ends at the Cedar Ave./Hwy. 77 bridge. A walkway crosses the river to the Jens Casperson Landing (DNR), where the State Corridor Trail heads east along the river to Fort Snelling State Park.

Bass Ponds (0.7 mi., loop) - Two short loop trails lead from the shelter area, past a spring-fed stream, and around a pond and marsh. An interpretive brochure is available at the Visitor Center. This area also serves as the east trailhead for the Hogback Ridge Trail.

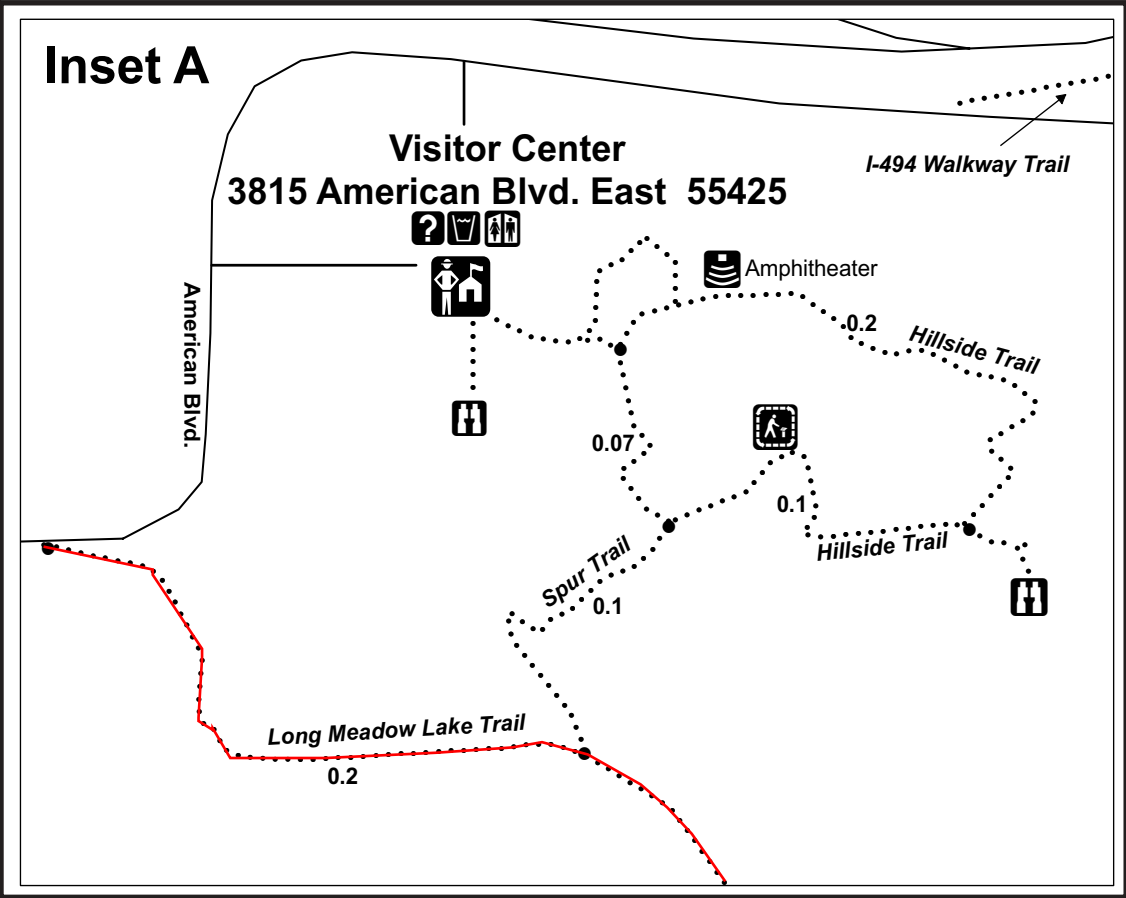
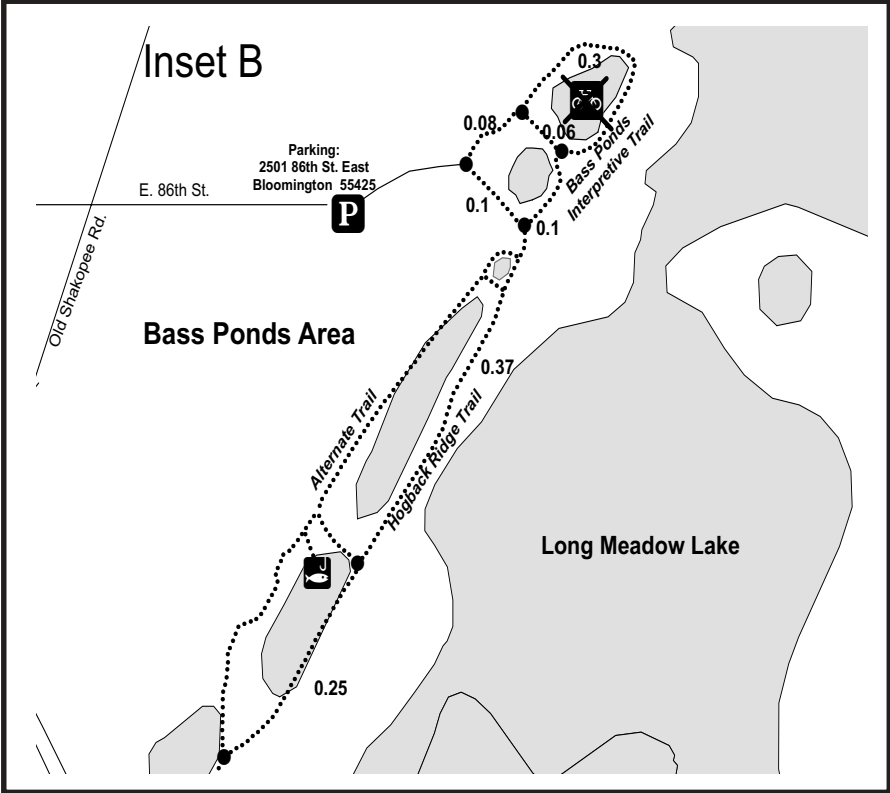
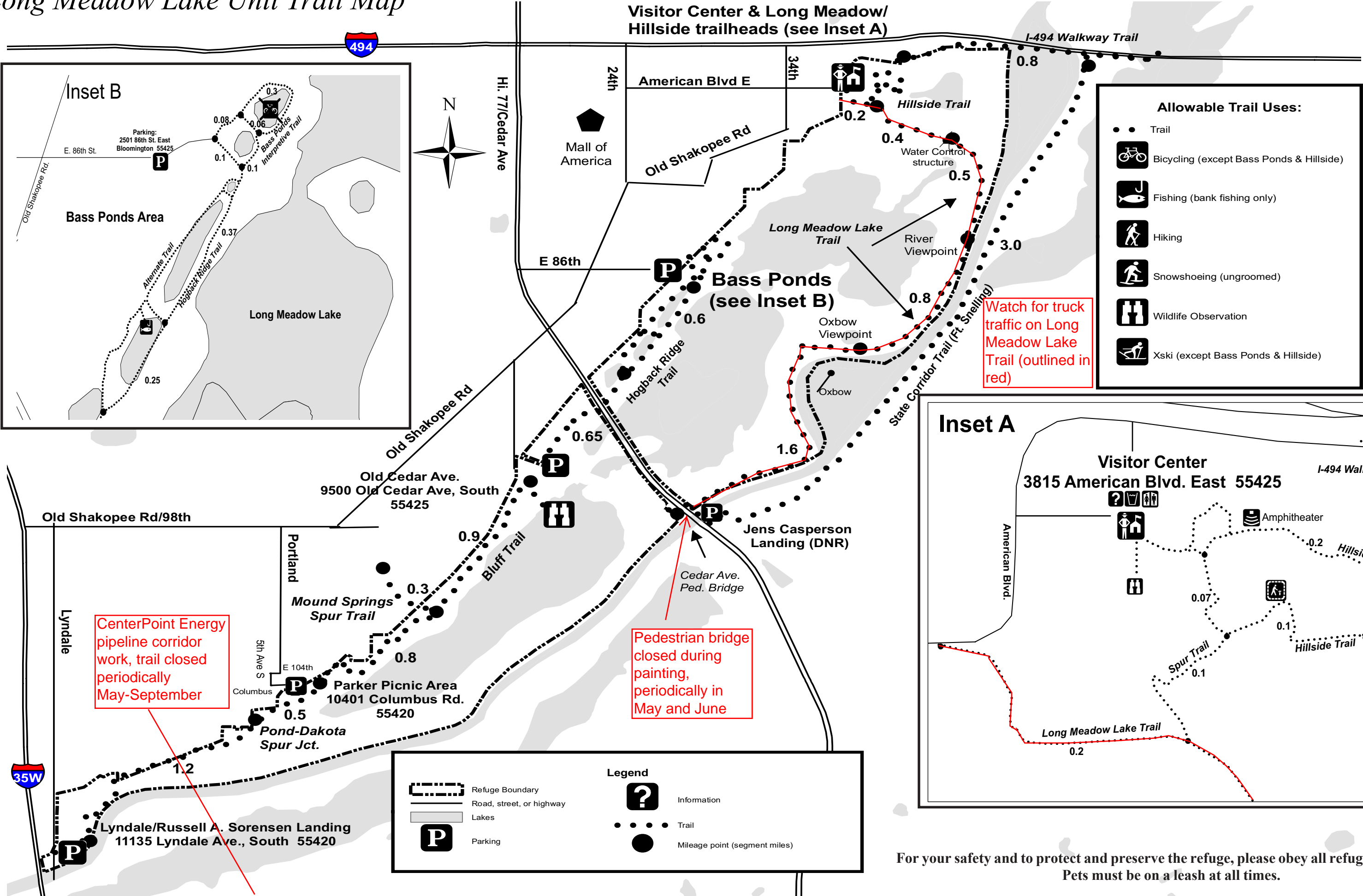
Hogback Ridge Trail (1.3 mi., linear) - Accessible either from Bass Ponds or Old Cedar Avenue, this trail heads west from the Bass Ponds shelter. It passes a series of ponds (on right) and Long Meadow Lake (on left). Continuing under Hwy. 77, it passes Cedar Pond platform and ends at Old Cedar Ave. parking area.

Bluff Trail (3.4 mi., linear) - Accessible either from Old Cedar or Russell Sorensen Landing (Lyndale Ave.), the east end heads west from Old Cedar Ave. After about 100 yards it passes a spur trail to the left that leads to a marsh boardwalk and platform. Through forest its entire length, the east half of the trail is fairly level and passes along the shore of Long Meadow Lake. After passing a spur (0.9 mi.) to Mound Spring Park, the trail occasionally rises in elevation, particularly at "Cardiac Hill", where a spur leads to the Parker Picnic Area (1.75 mi.). Another spur trail (2.2 mi.) leads to the Pond-Dakota mansion. The trail ends at Russell Sorensen Landing. Please note: bicycles are not allowed from Old Cedar Ave. to the spur trail.

State Corridor Trail - Access either from Jens Casperson Landing, or from the I-494 walkway, this trail is part of the Fort Snelling State Park trail system (DNR). The portion across the river from Long Meadow Lake follows the river from the I-494 bridge (north) to Jens Casperson Landing. It is a gravel road for the northern-most mile, and for the southern-most half mile.

I-494 Walkway - From the Visitor Center, American Blvd. E continues as a hiking/biking walkway across the I-494 bridge. This trail links to Fort Snelling State Park.

Long Meadow Lake Unit Trail Map



Allowable Trail Uses:

- Trail
- Bicycling (except Bass Ponds & Hillside)
- Fishing (bank fishing only)
- Hiking
- Snowshoeing (ungroomed)
- Wildlife Observation
- Xski (except Bass Ponds & Hillside)

Legend

- Refuge Boundary
- Road, street, or highway
- Lakes
- Parking
- Information
- Trail
- Mileage point (segment miles)

For your safety and to protect and preserve the refuge, please obey all refuge regulations.
Pets must be on a leash at all times.